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ОТ АМЕРИКАНСКОГО НАРОДА

**КАЗАХСТАН**

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## ПРЕСС-РЕЛИЗ

### **USAID Improves Qualification of University Instructors in Economics Disciplines**

On September 3, 2007 about 250 instructors from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan's universities began taking CIPA courses organized by the USAID Accounting/ Certified International Public Accountant Project (A/CIPA). To improve teaching of key economic disciplines in a market economy, professors from 20 of the region's universities will receive 180 hours of training in Financial Accounting 1, Managerial Accounting 1, Tax and Law, and a 20-hour course on teaching methodology.

In Kazakhstan these courses are taking place in Astana, Almaty, Pavlodar, Shymkent, and Uralsk. Participating universities include the Kazakh Economic University named after T. Ryskulov, Eurasian National University named after Gumilyov, Agritechnical University, Pavlodar State University named after S. Toraigyrov, University of Central Asia, and Caspian Public University. After completing the program, university professors are expected to register for exams administered by the CIPAEN examination network in November 2007 to test their knowledge on these subjects.

Introduction of modern teaching methodologies is one of the key directions for the development of the modern education system in Kazakhstan. The USAID A/CIPA project supports this process by helping to reform the standards of the university-level education. The project aims to create a system of professional training for the university professors who teach accounting and auditing, bringing in the best international experience to the country's higher education system.

In the prior years, USAID projects together with Kazakh Economic University named after T. Ryskulov have already updated the "Accounting and Audit" and "Finance" curricula to comply with requirements of the Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Kazakhstan. In addition, a state educational standard GOSO 2006 was developed that encompasses all subjects of the CIPA Program and is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This state educational standard is mandatory for all economic universities in the country. The A/CIPA courses for the Kazakhstan's university professors have also been aligned with this new educational standard.

A/CIPA's courses provide university professors with an opportunity to improve their professional skills and obtain additional qualifications in international accounting and auditing. The training is conducted by professional instructors who are Certified Accounting Practitioners. The courses include practical sessions; all trainees have received a full set of teaching and study materials on all subjects of the CIPA Program. The course on teaching methodology will acquaint the university professors with an innovative form of teaching accounting and information technologies. The organizers of the course hope that the skills and knowledge gained during the CIPA-based training will facilitate the development of accounting and auditing in the region, improve the quality of instruction in economic disciplines, and facilitate the preparation of specialists in demand among the business community.

To develop the courses, A/CIPA project held numerous meetings with university representatives in Almaty, Astana, Pavlodar, Uralsk, and Shymkent. Currently, the program is offered in thirteen leading economic universities in the country. Utilizing these education centers, the USAID A/CIPA project plans to involve other educational institutions in the implementation of the CIPA Program.

The USAID Accounting/ Certified International Professional Accountant Project is one of the many assistance projects made possible by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Since 1992, the American people through USAID have provided more than \$1.5 billion in programs that support Central Asia's health care sector, democratic institutions, education, and economic growth.

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